

names, such as *Blitzkatarrh*, the *Grippe*, purulent bronchitis, *pneumónica*, or even the influenza of 1918-1919. Whatever it is called, however, the pandemic is no longer be «forgotten» and this volume is a welcome addition to the literature showing how much more we can learn about the devastation and trauma influenza wrought around the world. ■

Carol R. Byerly

University of Colorado, Boulder

**Josep L. Barona. The Rockefeller Foundation, Public Health and International Diplomacy, 1920-1945.** London: Pickering & Chatto; 2015, xviii + 200 p. ISBN: 9781317316787. £ 100.

International health, and international health organizations in particular, have been the object of increasing historical interest. The monograph by Josep L. Barona, therefore, forms part of a growing body of scholarship analyzing the political, medical, economic and cultural backgrounds of the organizations which, collectively, formed the international health scene in the twentieth century. Its main focus is on the League of Nations Health Organization (LNHO) and the International Health Board/Division of the Rockefeller Foundation (RF), both of which have already been described in lengthy monographs<sup>1</sup>. However, instead of merely adding another volume to the historiography of those organizations, it analyzes the cooperation between them, regarding them as an example of the diplomacy of public health which shaped an early international framework of international health governance.

- 
1. Farley, John. *To Cast Out Disease. A History of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation (1913-1951)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press; 200; Cueto, Marcos, ed. *Missionaries of Science. The Rockefeller Foundation and Latin America*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press; 1994; Borowy, Iris. *Coming to Terms with World Health: The League of Nations Health Organisation 1921-1946*. Berlin: Peter Lang; 2009. For a review of different interpretations of the Rockefeller Foundation see Weindling, Paul. *American Foundations and the Internationalising of Public Health in the Twentieth Century*. In: Gross Solomon, Susan; Zylberman, Patrick; Murard, Lion, eds. *On Shifting Ground: Health and Space in the Twentieth Century*. Rochester: Rochester University Press; 2008, p. 63-86.

On 150 pages of text and twenty pages of annex, Barona presents a concise summary of the creation of the two institutions and their relations during twenty years of close, albeit sometimes rocky cooperation. Roughly half of the text describes the very early and the very late phase of this period, the times of transition when the work of the organizations began or ended or was fundamentally transformed, mostly under the impression of two world wars. During the First World War and its aftermath, the threat and the reality of large-scale epidemics spurred the formation of institutionalized international health cooperation, while the Second World War shifted attention to the needs of refugees and to the question of how to rearrange the scenery of international health administration after the war.

The central part of the book addresses the collaboration of the LNHO and the RF during the two decades in between. In line with the fields of collaborative work, the chapter focuses on the conceptualization and planning on schools of public health, on the creation and management of the International Epidemiological Intelligence Service (based on the Far Eastern Bureau in Singapore), on exchanges of international health experts and on the formation of international standards on food rationing and biological products. In different ways, each program saw a negotiation between the positions and interests of the two organizations, whereby the RF had a strong position as the financially stronger partner who provided most of the funding, while the LNHO had access to a large network of international experts and produced substantial innovative thinking. Both organizations shared a belief in the importance of public health, firmly grounded in research and methodical training, and in the integration of quantitative and laboratory approaches to public health policies. More important, both shared a commitment to a regime of international cooperation along largely Western lines of free mobility of people and ideas and of technocratic approaches to problem solving. The cooperation followed a certain division of labour: the RF would supply the results of laboratory work, finances and the support of a large network of —mostly American— RF officers working around the world. The LNHO supplied contacts with governments and scientists in numerous countries, in Europe and beyond, and an infrastructure of international meetings, publications and other means of regular scientific exchange.

The main strength of the book is also, in part, its weakness. In meticulous use of a broad range of primary source material from the archives of the League of Nations (Geneva) and the Rockefeller Foundation (New York), as well as from published material of the period, Barona presents an account which closely

follows the voices of the time. Long quotes from reports and letters provide a vivid and immediate image of the events and allows the actors to come to life. At the same time, this loyalty to the sources sometimes risks getting lost in details, for instance in lengthy lists of financial transactions between the LNHO and the RF. Sometimes, the thorough accounts of individual documents can become confusing, as when names for commission are cited even though they were only provisional titles that were soon replaced by more long-term terminology (e.g. the «International Health Office»), leaving the uninformed reader wondering what may have become of them. But this tension between the advantages and disadvantages of close source guidance demonstrates the general dilemma of historical writing, and every historian is forced to choose between more critical, analytical distance or a more vivid and energetic narrative. This book opts for the latter, and often this seems the right choice.

Another welcome feature of the book is its presentation of information not easily available at other places. This includes a complete list of International Sanitary Conferences, two key documents on the formation of the LNHO and its cooperation with the RF, as well as a list of important actors in the international health scene along with brief *curricula vitae*. With these and other details, the book succeeds in bringing to life the collaboration of two chief health organizations of the early twentieth century and in explaining how they formed «an outstanding chapter in the history of public health and a milestone in the process transforming health as a powerful element in international diplomacy» (p. 151). ■

Iris Borowy

[orcid.org/0000-0001-7621-1195](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7621-1195)

Shanghai University, College of Liberal Arts

■ **Paula A. Michaels. Lamaze. An International History.** Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2014, 264 p. ISBN: 9780199738649. £ 20.99

Los cursos de preparación al parto y las diversas técnicas de relajación y respiración como parte fundamental de ellos se han asentado como un elemento indispensable de la experiencia del embarazo en el mundo occidental. Estas técnicas se originan en una genealogía de conocimientos y prácticas de lo que podríamos llamar el «parto natural», «parto sin dolor» o «parto sin miedo» y cuya